

## Claims

5 What is claimed is:

1. A stable tooth whitening composition suitable for application to teeth in the oral cavity comprising a peroxide releasing compound dispersed in an orally acceptable anhydrous hydrophobic pressure sensitive adhesive which composition when applied topically to tooth  
10 surfaces forms an adherent layer containing the peroxide compound which peroxide compound is thereafter released from the layer to effect tooth whitening.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the peroxide compound is sodium percarbonate.
- 15 3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the sodium percarbonate is present in the composition from about 0.5 to about 50 weight.%.
4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the peroxide compound is PVP/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.
- 20 5. The composition of claim 4 wherein the concentration of PVP/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> present in the composition is from about 0.5 weight % to about 50 weight %.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the anhydrous hydrophobic pressure sensitive adhesive is a silicone based pressure sensitive adhesive.
- 25 7. The composition of claim 6 wherein the silicone based pressure sensitive adhesive is a copolymer polymer prepared by condensing a silicone resin with a polydiorganosiloxane.
8. The composition of claim 6 wherein the silicone resin is a silanol-containing silicone resin.
- 30 9. The composition of claim 6 wherein the polydiorganosiloxane is polydimethyl siloxane.
10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition contains an adhesion enhancing agent.
- 35 11. The composition of claim 1 wherein the adhesion enhancer is a polyethylene gelled mineral oil.

12. The composition of claim 10 wherein the adhesion enhancing agent is petrolatum.

13. The composition of claim 1 wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive is present in the composition in an amount from about 40 to about 80 weight %.

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14. A method for whitening teeth which comprises

(a) preparing a nonaqueous liquid tooth whitening composition of claim 1;

(b) painting the composition into contact with the teeth to be whitened;

10 (c) maintaining the composition in contact with the teeth for plurality of minutes per day; and then,

(d) repeating steps b and c for multiple days to thereby whiten the teeth.